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LETTER DATED 14 AUGUST 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the note of protest No. 7/3/4/1/66330, dated 14 August 1991, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey concerning the violation by the Turkish army of the Iraqi territory.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Amir A. AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 14 August 1991 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey and has the honour to refer to the statements by Mr. Barlas Doughar, Minister of Defence of Turkey, which were quoted by the Anatolia News Agency on 12 August 1991.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq once again protests vigorously against the violation by the Turkish army of the territory of the Republic of Iraq and the aggression against its national sovereignty. This conduct is a manifest violation of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Iraqi-Turkish Frontier Treaty of 1926. It also gravely impairs the relations of good-neighbourliness and cooperation between the Iraqi and Turkish peoples.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq further notes that Mr. Barlas Doughar, Minister of Defence of Turkey, stated officially that the creation of what he termed a no-man's land inside Iraqi territory along the frontier between Iraq and Turkey was a decision to be taken by the Turkish Government. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq considers that this statement is totally unacceptable and inadmissible and that it is contrary to all the principles of international law and is totally incompatible with relations of good-neighbourliness between Iraq and Turkey. Sovereignty over Iraqi territory is a responsibility of the Iraqi State which cannot, under any circumstances whatever, pass to the Government of another State.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq affirms that Iraq is fully entitled to make whatever response it considers appropriate, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, to the violations of its sovereignty and of the integrity of its national territory; it requests that the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs provide an official explanation of the statements by Mr. Barlas Doughar, that the units of the Turkish army leave Iraqi territory immediately and that such violations of Iraqi territory are not repeated, in order to preserve the relations of good-neighbourliness between Iraq and Turkey and to avoid any deterioration in those relations as a result of such violations.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq takes this opportunity to convey to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey the assurances of its highest consideration.